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FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0302  
INFO WHA CENTRAL AMERICAN COLLECTIVE  
RULSJGA/DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION WASHINGTON DC

UNCLAS SAN SALVADOR 000110

SIPDIS  
OES/S FOR NANCY CARTER-FOSTER

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [SOCI](#) [UNDP](#) [UNGA](#) [ECON](#) [ES](#)  
SUBJECT: DISTRACTED DRIVING DEMARCHE DELIVERED

REF: STATE 6703

¶1. On January 27, Econoff delivered reftel demarche to Dr. Walter Lara, the Director of Regulations at the Ministry of Health. Dr. Lara confirmed El Salvador does not have legislation to prohibit texting while driving. He added that El Salvador lacks a reliable system to track the statistics of the number of accidents related to distracted driving. However, local newspaper La Prensa Grafica quoted Otto Urrutia, Transit Director of the National Civilian Police (PNC), estimating that one out of every three accidents is caused by distracted driving involving texting/cell phones. Dr. Lara mentioned that the Ministry of Health is currently examining proposing legislation against distracted driving and expressed interest in learning more about the regulations in the U.S. and how they will be enforced.

BLAU